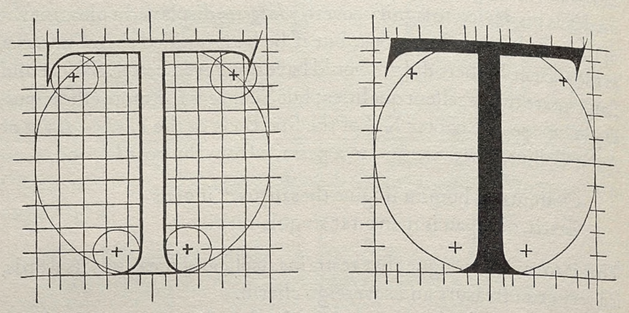
which is a great vice in Latin. I know not if this vice has befallen them because we say, in French, 'escripre' and 'escole,' and because in some words we place E before S, in imitation of the Greeks, who write and pronounce *Epsilon* before *Sigma,* that is to say, Ε before Σ, in the imperfect and perfect tenses of verbs beginning with *Sigma;* also in words beginning with *Zita,* Ξι, & *Psi,* whereof *Sigma* is a part, saying, Σπειρω εσπειρον, εσπαρκα. Στρεφω εστρεφον, εστραφα. Ζαω, εζαον, εζηκα. Ξεω, εξεον, εξεκα. Ψαλλω, εψαλλον, εψαλκα.* The low Bretons† pronounce S very well, and like the Greeks; for between two vowels, they give it a full, solid sound, whereas we, like the Latins, weaken it & make it flat, so to speak. If these Bretons wished to say, *Nisi musa desiderium amiserit,* they would pronounce the S so full that there would seem to be two instead of one, saying, *Nissi mussa dessiderium amisserit.*

* *Tory wrote* φαλλω, εφαλλον, εφαλκα, *but there is no such Greek verb; and Sigma is not a component part of Phi.*

† *Les Bretons bretonnants; according to Cotgrave, a Breton bretonnant is 'A low Britan (sic), who speakes halfe welch, halfe Saxon, all barbarously.'*



THE letter T here drawn, made from the I, is ten units in height, like all the others, and eight and a half units in breadth at the top; and the ends of its arms & its foot are curved by four turns of the compass; I have marked the centres whereon to set the point of the compass.

TSays Martianus Capella, *appulsu linguæ, dentibus impulsis excuditur.* That is to say, T is pronounced by putting the tongue against the closed teeth. The Italians pronounce it so full & resonantly that it seems as if they add an E to it, when, instead of saying, *Caput vertigine laborat,* they pronounce, *Capute vertigine laborate.* I have heard it so pronounced in Rome, in the school called La Sapienza, and in many other distinguished places in Italy. This pronunciation is in no wise followed by the

people of Lyons, who drop the T, and do not pronounce it at all at the end of the third person plural of active and neuter verbs, saying *Amaverun* and *Araverun* for *Amaverunt* and *Araverunt.* In like manner some Picards drop the T at the end of certain French words, as when, meaning to say, *Comant cela comant? Monsieur, cest une jument,* they say, *Coman chela coman? Monsieur, chest une jumen.*

TIs of the same figure and shape in Greek and Latin, and is called in Greek, *Taf,* which denotes that it is without aspirate. The Latins and we have it sometimes alone and without an aspirate following, and sometimes we add the aspirate to it; but the Greeks have for T and H a single letter, which they call Θητα. The Hebrews also have for T alone a single letter, which they call *Teth,* and another letter for T aspirated, which they call *Thau.**

TAF,—that is to say, T,—as Asconius Pedianus† says, was one of the three letters used by the ancients in their criminal trials and judgements. When they wished to condemn some person as guilty, they threw into a vessel made for that purpose the letter Θ written on a small bit of paper, or parchment, or some other like substance suitable to be written upon. When they wished to acquit, they threw into the said vessel the letter *Taf,* so written. And when they were in doubt about the pending cause, they threw in a *Lambda,* which signified that they had not as yet sufficient knowledge of the said cause. You will find this set forth in Proverb LVI of the first Chiliad of Erasmus, of which the title is Θ *præfigere.*

THas C for a companion, which precedes it, and is always joined to it in the same syllable, as in the words Pe͡ctus, A͡ctus, & a thousand others; for which reason modern writers, following the ancient, still write *c* and *t* as one letter, called an abbreviation, written thus—*c͡t;* and these two, as I have said, are always grouped with the following vowel in the same syllable, as—*Pe-c͡tus, A-c͡tus, Ne-c͡to, Le-c͡tus, Pi-c͡tus;* just as in the case of M before N, which must always be written with the N in the same syllable with the vowel that follows them, as in the words, *Mnestheus, A-mnis, O-mnis, Sa-mnis,* and other like words. I say this chiefly for the behoof of some who separate them, being ignorant of their affinity and perpetual alliance.

TBefore N also must be in the same syllable, as we see in the words *Tle-ptolemus,*‡ & *Æ-tna.* And in like manner before R, as can be seen in a thousand words.

* *In the description of the Hebrew alphabet, infra, p. 162, Thau does not appear. The nearest approach to it is Tau.*

† *Q. Asconius Pedianus, a learned grammarian of Padua, who wrote (A.D. 41) a valuable commentary on Cicero.*

‡ *A curious instance of Tory's carelessness.*

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